IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The ~~coating composition according to Claim 9~~ optical element according to Claim 17, wherein the component (A) is at least one silicon-containing substance selected from the group consisting of the organic silicon compounds of the formula (I) and their hydrolyzates.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The ~~coating composition according to Claim 9~~ optical element according to Claim 17, wherein the metal oxide to be used for the nuclei of the component (B) is an oxide of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Fe, Cu, Zn, Y, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, Sb, Ta, W, Pb, Bi and Ce.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The ~~coating composition according to Claim 9~~ optical element according to Claim 17, wherein the acidic oxide to be used for the coating material (b) of the component (B), is antimony oxide.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The ~~coating composition according to Claim 9~~ optical element according to Claim 17, wherein the coating material (b) of the component (B) is a diantimony pentoxide colloid containing an alkali component.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The ~~coating composition~~ optical element according to Claim 13, wherein the coating material (b) of the component (B) contains an alkali
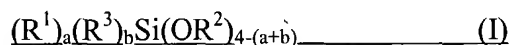
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component consisting of an alkylamine, and has a M/Sb_2O_5 molar ratio, where M is an amine molecule) of from 0.02 to 4.00.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The ~~coating composition according to Claim 9~~ optical element according to Claim 17, wherein the coating material (b) of the component (B) further contains an alkylamine-containing silica.
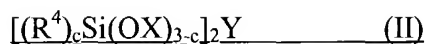
Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The ~~coating composition according to Claim 19~~ optical element according to Claim 17, ~~which~~ wherein the coating composition contains at least one curing catalyst selected from the group consisting of metal salts, metal alkoxides and metal chelates.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An optical element which comprises an optical substrate and a cured film made of ~~the~~ a coating composition ~~as defined in Claim 9~~ formed on the surface of the optical substrate, wherein the coating composition comprises the following components (A) and (B):

component (A): at least one silicon-containing substance selected from the group consisting of organic silicon compounds of formula (I):

$$(R^1)_a(R^3)_bSi(OR^2)_{4-(a+b)} \qquad (I)$$

wherein each of R^1 and R^3 is an alkyl group, an aryl group, a halogenated alkyl group, a halogenated aryl group, an alkenyl group, or an organic group having an epoxy group, an acryloyl group, a methacryloyl group, a mercapto group, an amino group or a cyano group, which is bonded to the silicon atom by a Si-C bond, R^2 is a C_{1-8} alkyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group or an acyl group, and each of a and b is an integer of 0, 1 or 2, provided that a+b is an integer of 0, 1 or 2, and the formula (II):

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$$[(R^4)_cSi(OX)_{3-c}]_2Y \qquad (II)$$

wherein R^4 is a C_{1-5} alkyl group, X is a C_{1-4} alkyl group or an acyl group, Y is a methylene group or a C_{2-20} alkylene group, and c is an integer of 0 or 1, and their hydrolyzates; and

component (B): colloidal particles of a modified metal oxide which have primary particle diameters of from 2 to 100 nm and which contain particles (c) comprising colloidal particles (a) of a metal oxide having primary particle diameters of from 2 to 60 nm, as nuclei, and a coating material (b) consisting of colloidal particles of an acidic oxide coated on the surface of the particles (a).

Claim 18 (Original): The optical element according to Claim 17, which further has an antireflection film formed on its surface.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended by inserting appropriate headings, as was done in the parent application.

Claims 1-9 have been canceled. Claims 10-16 have been amended to depend or ultimately depend on Claim 17. Claim 17 has been amended into independent form.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 10-18 are now pending in the application.